

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 8, 9 and 33 are amended, and new claims 34 and 35 are added. The amendments to claims 1 and 8 are supported in the application as originally filed at p. 32, lines 9-26; and Fig. 9C. The amendments to claim 33 are supported in the application as originally filed at p. 30, lines 20-24; p. 31, lines 3-10; Fig. 9A; Fig. 9B; and Fig. 11. New claim 34 is supported in the application as originally filed at p. 25, line 20 through p. 26, line 5; and Fig. 6. New claim 35 is supported in the application as originally filed at p. 32, lines 5-8; Fig. 8C and Fig. 9C. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Moon and Examiner Lefkowitz at the interview held July 13 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claim 18 and the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 2-7, 9, 11, 13-17, 24, 31 and 32.

In view of at least the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 8, 19, 22, 27 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0050980 to Furuki et al. ("Furuki") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0054986 to Leman ("Leman"); rejects claims 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Furuki in view of Leman and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,341,980 to Noguchi et al. ("Noguchi"); rejects claims 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Furuki in view of Leman and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,088,220 to Katz ("Katz"); and rejects claim 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over

U.S. Patent No. 6,377,324 to Katsura ("Katsura") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,594,619 to Miyagawa et al. ("Miyagawa"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the foldable flexible display includes "a flexible display sheet that bends when the foldable flexible display is folded relative to the support point." In a brief telephone interview with Examiner Moon on July 18, the Examiner agreed that the amended features distinguish the applied references because the references of record do not suggest an input device as recited in claim 1 that includes a flexible display sheet that bends when the display is folded relative to a support point. Thus, independent claims 1 and 8 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 10, 12, 19-23, and 25-30 depend from one of independent claims 1 and 8, and are therefore also patentable over the applied references for at least the reason enumerated above, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Additionally, as agreed in the July 13 interview, claim 33 is patentable over the applied references because the combination of Katsura and Miyagawa fail to disclose or suggest a display where the "second cover member is slidable with respect to the first cover member when the first and second cover members are positioned in the same plane."

Allowance of claim 33 is respectfully requested.

Additionally, new claims 34 and 35 should be allowed. As discussed during the interview, new claim 34 (which has been revised subsequent to the interview to be in independent form) recites that the display includes a "flexible display sheet disposed on one side of the first and second cover members, and traversing the joint." As agreed in the interview, this feature is not disclosed or suggested in the applied references.

New claim 35 depends from claim 34 and recites that the display is foldable in a direction "such that the display sheet opposes itself when the display is in a folded state." This feature is also not suggested by the applied references.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 8, 10, 12, 19-23, 25-30 and 33-35, along with allowable claims 2-7, 9, 11, 13-18, 24, 31 and 32, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Amendment Transmittal

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